My Favorite Authors: John Keegan
by Alan Cate

As a historian, I hold Sir John Keegan in great esteem; his more than 20 books cover many of the great battles of the last two centuries. Although he never served in the armed forces, he was fascinated by World War II as seen through the eyes of a ten-year-old boy in England.

One of his most notable books is The Face of Battle. In this groundbreaking work, Keegan delivers as completely as possible an account of ordinary soldiers’ experiences. In The Mask of Command, Keegan defines the nature of combat leadership and the motivations of nations to follow great generals, whether to victory or defeat.

John Keegan has written several books on the First and Second World Wars. Not content simply to retell battles, Keegan also covers strategy, logistics, industrial production, and many other factors affecting the outcome of these epic conflicts. For armchair military historians, as well as those who study war professionally, John Keegan is one of the definitive writers of our time.

About the author:
Alan Cate teaches military and U.S. history at the University School in Hunting Valley, Ohio. During his career in the Army, he taught at the United States Military Academy at West Point, among other prestigious appointments. In 2006, he published Founding Fighters: The Battlefield Leaders Who Made American Independence, a study of generalship in the American Revolution.